



THE GRANGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 60

EDITOR: CONNIE MASTERS

SEPTEMBER, 1995

From Flo

It is good to have you back - all you cottagers and world travellers. We have missed you. Special thanks are in order to all the volunteers who regularly welcomed visitors during the summer months. Special unannounced visitors this summer included ants, moths, a bat and members of the rodent family. Things are never dull at The Grange!

It has been a good summer for me; exploring The Grange, browsing in the Library, getting to know the volunteers, rummaging in cupboards, reading old records and chatting with visitors. I feel very much a part of this wonderful community and I thank you for your warm welcome, your patience and your support. You are great!

Mark your calendars for we have an exciting fall. Helvi Hunter has arranged an interesting and stimulating program of enrichment dinners, educational sessions and excursions-events not to be missed! As well, Connie Masters has our dessert/lectures planned (see enclosed flyer). This is our part of the Volunteer Committee's 50th Anniversary celebrations.

On Mon. Oct. 30, from 2-4 pm., we are celebrating Jean Gray's unique contribution to The Grange - her talent and long service in outfitting us in our historical costumes. Thank you Jean and thank you for staying

with us to make sure that we are as beautiful and as historically correct as ever.

TEA
in honour of

JEAN GRAY

Mon. Oct. 30, 1995
Music Room
2 - 4 pm.

Volunteers Visit Toronto's First Post Office

The Grange Volunteers' June excursion was to Toronto's First Post Office at 260 Adelaide Street East. We learned about its central role in communication and the history of the postal service, experienced letter writing nineteenth century style and enjoyed the exhibitions.

The Post Office gift shop has historical writing materials and books on postal and Canadian History. In addition, there is a postal service where you can buy stamps including first day covers, corner blocks and corner cuts. If you mail your letter there, you get the distinctive cancellation "York-Toronto 1833".

You can help support a sister museum by ordering your quantities of stamps by mail. (260 Adelaide St. E. M5A 1N2) or by phone, 416-865-1833

NEWS OF GRANGERS

Exits and Entrances

It's hard to say good-bye to -

-Rae Moriyama, Junghee Cho-Huh and Paul Wilson, who were part of the Mon. Housekeeping, and have given much TLC to Grange artifacts. Rae is off to a new job. Junghee & Paul to college.

-Shirley Orr. After 13 years with the Friday group, ill-health has forced Shirley to retire.

These people have given a great deal of time and hard work to The Grange, and it will not be easy to replace them.

Temporary Absence

May was not a good month for Wednesday Granger, Helen Howes. She was bopped by BOOP, a particularly malevolent bug, and she has had a long hard fight to recover. The good news is that Helen is feeling much better, and hopes to be with us again sometime in Sept.

Our Summer Students

Life for Grangers on Tuesday and Sunday was made considerably easier by the presence of our summer students, Deanna Baron and Susannah Lancashire. Their enthusiasm for the house and their quick assimilation of facts and figures impressed everyone. It was a pleasure knowing you, Deanna and Susannah. The best of luck with your studies in the year ahead.

New Faces at The Grange

Debbie Khoury - Sunday
Aleksandra Sorgic - Friday

We hope that Debbie and Aleksandra will find their work here interesting and rewarding.

ANNE MILLS

Anne Mills died this summer after a long fight with cancer.

On June 1, Anne was among those few honoured at the AGO Board of Trustees' reception for nearly half a century of volunteer service at the Gallery. Her contribution was enormous. Her greatest love was the work she did in choosing children's books for the AGO Book Store when it was an entirely volunteer-run operation. At the time it probably had the best selection of children's books in the city.

When The Grange became a Volunteer Committee operation, Anne became the Slide Library lady. Now containing over 5,000 slides, the Slide Library is, in fact, Anne's memorial.

Annie O'Brian

Editor's Note:

Anne cared very much for animals, and had two much loved four-footed companions herself. In her memory her friends have chosen to place a bench in the park where she always walked with Wimsey, her Golden Retriever. The Volunteer Committee has made a contribution towards Anne's bench.

THINGS TO DO

- Grange Enrichment meetings
for all volunteers

Mon. Sept. 25

Marta O'Brien, architectural historian.

Topic: Toronto's Brick Heritage

Mon. Oct. 23

William Gilpin on how he discovered the last log cabin in Toronto within his 1840's Victorian cottage. (See newspaper articles in staff sitting room).

Supper: 5:30 pm. (\$4)

Talk: 6:30 pm.

For both training suppers.

Sat. Sept. 16. 9:00 am.

Basic training for new volunteers or anyone else needing a refresher course.

Polish Your Skills - as an historical interpreter.

-Come September the U of T's School of Continuing Studies is again offering its ten week course for volunteer museum/gallery guides and wannabes. The course, "Guiding Tours in our Galleries, Museums & Parks" is a "must" for anyone who wants to move from enthusiastic (or confused) amateur to a semi-professional museum docent. Your editor took this course when it was introduced three or four years ago, and cannot recommend it too highly. It helps one develop interpretive strategies and techniques, teaching styles,

and to be more effective in general. An outline of the course is on the last page of the Newsletter.

-Attend the Volunteer Committee General Meeting on Monday September 25. The speaker will be Maia-Mari Sutnik, Head, Photographic Services.

-or, if not a member, think about joining the Volunteer Committee. Meetings are always interesting, and informative, and one learns what is happening in other areas of the Gallery, and of special projects (like Art in Bloom) that are being planned. The Grange is part of the AGO - not apart.

-Hear Marilyn Litvak, Grange Council Chairman, on Monday, October 16, at the Sesquicentennial Museum, when she speaks on Toronto architect Edward James Lennox, the subject of her soon-to-be published book. Marilyn will open the Museum's noon lecture series, "Meet the Author".

Pre-registration is required as there is no admission at the door.

For details, please call 397-3680. The Sesqui Museum is just up McCall Street, near College, behind the Toronto Board of Education building.

Order your tickets for the fall series "Discourse & Dessert". The lectures should be of particular interest to Grangers as each speaker will deal with one aspect of the restoration of The Grange. Please see page 11 for complete details.

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MARILYN BOUMA-PYPER
AND HER WINNING WAYS.

AGO Designer, Marilyn Bouma-Pyper, who, as most of you know, was responsible for designing our Grange booklet, has a habit of winning awards. The Grange booklet earned her two. There have been other awards in the intervening years, and now it has happened again - the Ontario Association of Art Galleries has awarded the 1995 Imperial Oil Design Award to the AGO for the Journal - designed by Marilyn Bouma-Pyper.

Congratulations-again, Marilyn!

A GRANGE MISCELLANY

Avril Stringer, our indefatigable researcher, has the answer to one of the questions that has been raised by volunteers,

"What is a Waste Book?"

This is an old term for a memo type accounting book of which there is an example in the ante room display case. This book, though, is something of a puzzle, Avril says. William Henry's name appears on the label with the date, 1828. William Henry would have been 16 at that time. Read the entries in the book - could William Henry have been such an enterprising teenager?

Another glimpse into the past, thanks to Avril - did you know that one of Goldwin Smith's favourite dishes was pumpkin pie? During his time at The Grange a large part of the kitchen garden was given over to the cultivation of pumpkins.

Another reminder from Avril - if there is any Granger who is in some confusion about the Robinsons, please see Mary Ash's article on the Robinsons and Julia Jarvis' book, "Three Generations of Robinsons" - both in The Grange library

Helvi Hunter suggests that if we are going by or into St. James' Cathedral, to pause and look at the old tombstone at the east wall of the entry porch. The inscription reads "Mary Sayre Gamble" wife of Clark Gamble, d. August 1837, 21 years, 5 months, 13 days. She was D'Arcy Boulton Jr.'s daughter, Wm. Henry's sister.

Probably stimulated by the Canadian Centennial, more local community museums were established in Ontario between 1967 and 1977 than at any other time before or since.

AGO BOARD OF TRUSTEES HONOURS
LONG SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

We hope all Grangers have seen the back page of the Sept/Oct. edition of the AGO Journal with the account of the June 1st reception in Walker Court given by the Board of Trustees of the AGO to honour the Volunteer Committee on its 50th anniversary, and those volunteers who have given 45 to 50 years of service to the Gallery.

Yes, that's our Annie O'Brian on the left (Gad, she must have begun her Gallery volunteering as a bobby soxer!) and former Grange flower lady, Emmy Lind, seated in front. Absent, Anne Mills. A much-deserved tribute.

THE GRANGE ANNUAL MEETING

On May 1, The Grange activities for 1994 culminated in the Annual Meeting, held this year in the Atrium.

As usual an enjoyable and interesting evening ensued with impressive reports of the year's accomplishments from The Grange executive.

We were delighted that Dr. Lowry was able to take time from his departure preparations to join us, even though it was to bid us farewell.

Our speaker of the evening was Elizabeth Addison, AGO External Affairs Director. She described the upcoming Constable, Gainsborough and Turner exhibitions, and the inspired promotional material that the AGO Marketing people had prepared. One phrase that gave us a particular chuckle was "See British Art on the Canadian Dollar!" which, of course, would be seen only in the U.S.

The meeting concluded with delicious refreshments from Kettledrum served in the Music Room.

For those who may have had to miss the Annual Meeting, copies of the reports from all the activity areas in The Grange will be found in a loose leaf binder in the staff sitting room.

GRANGE BAKEROOM WIZARDS PURSUE PERFECTION AT GIBSON HOUSE

In April, The Grange sent Susan Wakefield and Al deMatos, two of our historical interpreters with special expertise in the bakeroom, to Gibson House for special training in hearth cooking.

Susan has contributed a lively description of the day's activities:

On April 1, 1995, your resident bakers from Thursday and Saturday attended an Open Hearth Cooking Workshop conducted by Elizabeth Nelson-Raffaele, Curatorial Assistant of Gibson House in North York.

Both bakers were proud to represent The Grange and were amongst the first to arrive eager to commence learning! We were in no way disappointed, the workshop was very hands on. Bakers were divided into two groups. Each group prepared two receipts with one baker measuring, another chopping, another peeling, etc.

Elizabeth managed to successfully supervise the preparation of four different receipts including 2 puddings, soda bread, and excellent tea cakes.

She orchestrated preparation, providing a constant stream of historically correct information and kept the fire going with the correct heat under each pot at all times. The hearth was active and alive!

continued.....

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

in 1776, the year of the American Revolution, the United States was a young nation, struggling for independence from British rule.

The first President of the United States was George Washington, who served from 1789 to 1797.

During his presidency, Washington established the precedents for the office of the President and led the nation through its early years of independence.

After Washington's death, the nation was led by John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and James Monroe, who continued to shape the young republic.

The period from 1789 to 1800 is known as the Founding Era, a time of great political and social change.

The United States continued to grow and develop, facing challenges such as the War of 1812 and the issue of slavery.

The history of the United States is a story of resilience and progress.

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Baking Workshop (continued)

The bakers created more dishes and mess than Planters has peanuts, and cheerful volunteers whisked dishes away and kept things tidy. Elizabeth told us that when she is asked about the scullery maid she refers to the people who lived at The Grange and could afford such help. Mrs. Gibson was fortunate to have the assistance of her daughters.

While the receipts were being prepared for serving, the bakers were toured through the house.

The conclusion of the workshop saw the bakers tasting the baked goods of their labours and enjoying tea and apple cider.

Proving that whether country born or city raised we are all one around the hearth.

Susan Wakefield.

THE INTERPRETER'S
TEN COMMANDMENTS.

Several years ago Dorothy Duncan, Executive Director of the Ontario Historical Society drew up the ten commandments for interpreters which were printed in a Grange Newsletter. Your editor thinks they deserve re-printing from time to time.

1. Thou shalt have no personal life while on the job.

2. Thou shalt adorn thyself with only those raiments that have been researched and prepared for thee.
3. Thou shalt strip away all those jewels, buckles, bows and timepieces that art thine own vain adornments.
4. Thou shalt put thy visitors at ease and in comfort.
5. Thou shalt learn when to speak and when to remain silent, remember to control thy love of thy own voice, droning on..and on...
6. Thou shalt learn to speak truth, plain unvarnished truth.
7. Thou shalt learn how to be brief, recognizing that it is impossible to give all visitors brain transplants.
8. Thou shalt learn how to say "I do not know", whenever it is appropriate, recognizing that it is impossible to know everything about our past from Creation to the present.
9. Thou shalt stimulate the visitors to laugh, to think, to ponder, to question, and finally -
10. Thou shalt send visitors away, wanting to know more, to read a book, to visit another museum, or just to question the everyday things that surround them, recognizing that our history has been, and always will be, made up of everyday things.

THB, ACO, OHS, OMA - HUH?

Ever wondered the significance of these initials that you may have come across in magazine and newspaper articles on historic matters? They stand for the names of some of the major heritage organizations within the city and province, the big guns in the preservation wars. As labourers in the heritage field, you should be aware of these organizations and what they do.

In this issue of the Newsletter, and the next, your editor will try to describe their areas of operation as succinctly as possible.

THB - The Toronto Historical Board. As its name implies, the Board is concerned with the preservation of the city's heritage buildings and neighbourhoods and the natural landscape. It was established by the city in 1960, and is governed by a board of citizens appointed by Toronto City Council. Two Council members also sit on the Board. It meets monthly to consider matters that affect heritage preservation in the city and to advise City Council. There is a professional staff responsible for the maintenance and operation of the 5 city-owned museums - Fort York, the Marine Museum, Colborne Lodge, Spadina and the Mackenzie House. The THB headquarters are located at 205 Yonge Street in a building of historic interest, the former Bank of Toronto designed by Edward James Lennox.

The THB offers a number of public programs including walking tours of Toronto's historic districts, and noon hour talks on Thursdays at its Yonge Street building. The THB also has special educational programs for schools in all its locations, and provides research and advice to owners of historic buildings. In the THB's own words, "...seeks to promote an understanding of history that helps define the sense of place and identity."

Since last year interested citizens have been offered involvement in the THB through the "Heritage Partners" program. Membership benefits include free admission to all the THB museums, invitations to special events, 10% discount at the THB shop, and so on.

Publication:

"Explore Historic Toronto" (sent free to all "Heritage Partners").

ACO - the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario. It had its beginnings in 1933, when the late Eric Arthur, professor of architecture at the U of T and author of "Toronto No Mean City", (known to all Grangers, we trust) concerned about the continuing loss of important historic Ontario buildings, purchased for less than \$4,000 the Barnum House in Grafton. He then met with a number of influential Ontario residents who shared his concerns, including Vincent Massey, William Cawthra and Gerald Larkin. They backed the purchase and subsequently formed the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario.

Its purpose was the preservation of the best examples of the architecture of the province, and the protection of its places of natural beauty. Since then the ACO has grown with branches in many parts of the province, continuing the work of Eric Arthur. They make inventories of heritage buildings, organize lectures and tours of historic sites and districts, and strive to influence political decisions affecting our architectural heritage. They are also active in increasing public awareness of threatened architectural landmarks and heritage issues.

The Council of the ACO meets monthly, and is made up of volunteer officers and representatives of the regional branches. Recently the Council has undertaken the purchase of properties and assisted private owners of designated heritage buildings by means of grants and loans from the provincially supported Heritage Fund.

The ACO Advisory Board is made up of architects, engineers and planners who volunteer their expertise.

Membership is open to anyone interested in architectural preservation and there is a Toronto branch, the Toronto Region Architectural Conservancy.

Publication:

Acorn - (3 times a year)

TRAC

(Toronto Region Newsletter)

OHF the Ontario Heritage Foundation

It is a non-profit agency of the Ontario Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Recreation.

It was established in 1968 to hold in trust Ontario properties that have architectural, historical or archaeological importance.

The Foundation owns properties such as the Elgin-Winter Garden Theatre, George Brown House, Fulford Place, Brockville, and their latest acquisition and restoration, Benares in Mississauga.

One of the Foundation's major projects was the restoration of the downtown Toronto office building that houses its headquarters at 10 Adelaide Street E.

The Foundation awards grants to historical organizations and preservations groups, and manages the Niagara Escarpment Trust Fund which is used to purchase property to complete the Niagara Escarpment parks and open space system.

Publication:

Heritage Matters (3 times a year). Free on application to the Foundation.

AVRIL STRINGER'S LATEST ARCHIVAL DISCOVERIES

Research Old & New

Harriette's father's memoirs are still being processed but here are a couple of excerpts to whet your appetite.

Incidentally, Thomas Dixon wrote these memoirs in 1834 for his sons. I wonder what he would have said if he knew admirers of his then 9 year old daughter would be reading them 160 years later!

In 1794 - Thomas was about 13 - he and his mother were evacuated from Belgium in an English packet ship. He relates "A gentleman, an acquaintance, perceiving my mother in the crowd, had the kindness to give up his berth to her, which pleasing at the time ended very differently - for the berth above her gave way and together with its occupant, a man weighing perhaps three hundred pounds, fell upon and almost smothered her. My mother was fortunately unhurt."

On a different note he tells of being arrested on suspicion of having come from England. He had in fact been on his way from Flushing in Holland to Ostend, Belgium - the boat was blown off course. He tells of being imprisoned for 3 months and sentenced to death. However, due to several changes of Ministers of Police in Paris the sentence was forgotten and Thomas released. He calmly says "I was then about 16 years of age."

This wasn't his only stay in prison and he had many more adventures. He was truly a remarkable man. We hope to make this memoir available soon. I can assure you once you start to read it you won't be able to put it down.

Skipping forward a few years here are some excerpts from a letter to Margaret Machell, April 7, 1980.

"It must have been about 1887 that my mother, who was then Minnie Holding, came over from England with her father, mother, sisters, Lizzie, Lois and two brothers. She would be about eighteen at that time and I believe that, very shortly after getting to Toronto, the Goldwin Smiths employed her as an "upstairs" maid. However, one of the stories she used to like to tell was about the time the cook fell ill just before a dinner party and she in great fear, produced the dinner and how kind the Smiths were about her effort. (Shades of Upstairs Downstairs!) She also used to tell us about watching the ladies coming in in their lovely dresses and watching dancers from an upstairs balcony (?). A Mr. Chin was the butler and in charge of the staff and one of her close friends, also on the staff was a Mrs. Ewart, although that would not have been her name then. The Ewarts married and went market gardening out near Silverthorn Avenue, and I can certainly remember as a child going on the long street car ride which took us somewhere in the vicinity of their farm."

"One story my mother used to tell us was about the previous occupants of the home - how the lady of the house had a young baby and was sitting in a room with big glass doors(?) and how an Indian came up to the window or door, walked in, came over to the mother, stroked her head, said "Nice mother, nice papoose" and walked out.

When we were taken to the Grange as children she was disappointed to see that the "dogs" cemetery was no longer there. Evidently they loved their dogs and had a special place to bury them when they died."

(Of course, we've heard different versions of the Indian story, but it always sounds good).

Bothered by Rheumatism? - You might like to try this remedy found in a record book from the 1830's.

Cure for Inflammatory Rheumatism

1 oz. Salt Petre
2 oz. Cream of Tartar
3 quarts Whiskey
3 oz. Stone Brimstone
Mix well together and take two or three wine glasses each day.

I don't know about curing your rheumatism but you wouldn't be feeling much pain!

P.S. Brimstone is an old name for sulphur.

Gas Lighting (Research 1993)

Gas, manufactured from coal was made available for street lighting in 1841. Toronto in 1841 had a population of 18,000 and on December 28th - 12 gas lamps "at strategic locations" were lighted for the first time.

Between 1842-1846 gas was available for use by businesses, institutions and residences.

In Britain, gas had been used for lighting since 1813. By 1815 there were 3 manufacturing plants and 15 miles of street mains. By 1829 there were over 200 gas works.

The first gas companies in the U.S. were in Baltimore - 1816, Boston 1832 and New York 1823.

It was not until 1836 that a committee was formed to look into the possibility of gas lighting for Toronto streets, and not until 1841 that an Act was passed in the Legislative Assembly giving Joseph Masson, Albert Furniss and John Strang to form The Toronto Gas, Light & Water Co.

The company honoured its mandate but the public complained of its service and its high charges.

Consequently an Act of Provincial Parliament in 1848 incorporated The Consumers' Gas Co. - still in operation today.

Guiding Tours in Our Galleries, Museums and Parks

If you like to speak about culture, to educate, to inform and to interact with the public, learn more about becoming a volunteer "docent." A guide, interpreter or facilitator, the docent leads tours at museums, art galleries, artist-run centres, historic houses, zoos, science centres and interpretive centres.

Explore the roles and responsibilities of the docent. Increase your own capacity to enjoy visiting museums, galleries and historic sites while learning the basics of conducting tours, presentations and other activities for others. Work with an experienced instructor to improve your working knowledge of cultural institutions, speaking in public, learning from objects and the needs of the visitor. Case studies, observation, practice and discussion are essential elements of the course. The course includes three class field trips to take part in guided tours or activities in local cultural institutions. Admission charges are included in the course fee.

The Ontario Museum Association and Ontario Association of Art Galleries recognize this course as an asset to potential docents/interpreters and as continuing development for volunteers and docents.

Related courses in art history and appreciation, architectural history, archaeology and science offered in this calendar may enhance your knowledge.

Please be aware that institutions set their own requirements for acceptance of docents and may provide in-house training specific to their exhibits. Completion of this course does not necessarily result in qualification for placement.

Recommended texts: Alison L. Grinder and E. Sue McCoy, *The Good Guide: A Sourcebook for Interpreters, Docents and Tour Guides*, 1989, Scottsdale, Arizona: Ironwood Publishing; John Falk and Lynn Dierking, *The Museum Experience*.

Limited enrolment.

Coordinator: Christine Castle, Ph.D. candidate, OISE; M.A., teaching/museum education, George Washington U, is a consultant, curator and trainer of museum educators.

SCS 5293-Sec 01A

Thu 10am-12:30pm

Sep 21-Nov 30

11 meetings

\$275

To enroll, call at the School for Continuing Studies, 158 St. George Street, just steps from Bloor Street and the St. George subway station, or telephone 978-2400. The School is open 9 am. to 5 pm. Monday to Friday.

